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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasushi NOGUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1791

Application No.: 10/591,991

Examiner: R. KEMMERLE III

Filed: September 7, 2006

Docket No.: 129357

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING POROUS CERAMIC STRUCTURE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 2, 2009 Office Action, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 10-12 stand withdrawn.

I. §112, Second Paragraph Rejection of Claim 9

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, asserting that claim 9 recites negative pressure, rendering the subject matter of claim 9 indefinite. This rejection is unreasonable.

Claim 9 recites a reduced pressure of -40000 Pa to -93000 Pa. One of ordinary skill understands that there is no negative pressure. The seemingly negative value of the pressure recited in claim 9 is relative to the standard atmospheric pressure of about 100000 Pa. This is described in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0019], [0068] and [0097]. The Office Action appears to unreasonably read the negative values of the pressure as absolute negative pressure, without appreciating the understanding of one of ordinary skill. One of